

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to challenge the Comcast/Time Warner/Adelphia merger (FCC Docket No. 05-192) and the AT&T/BellSouth merger (FCC Docket No. 06-74). Allowing the largest telecommunications company and the two largest cable companies and in the United States to grow even larger does not serve the public interest.

The concentration of media power is a huge and growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are increasingly falling under the control of a handful of giant corporations. Those corporations feed us pabulum entertainment and antinews designed to hide government atrocities rather than to expose them to the American people for correction. Those giant corporations are destroying We the People and Democracy in the sole name of greed. Like CEO's who take home hundreds of millions of dollars in "compensation" every year, while middle class Americans begin to starve.

The cost of broadband service also remains out of reach for many households. Americans are hungry for more competition in services. However, these mergers would only starve Americans of this needed competition.

Allowing AT&T to combine with BellSouth will give the top three broadband providers control of over half of all broadband connections in the country. At the same time, the Time Warner/Comcast/Adelphia merger will give Comcast and Time Warner increased power over entire regions of the United States, allowing rates to rise even as the digital divide continues to grow.

The FCC should block these transactions and impose STRICT conditions to protect free speech and competition under its "public interest standard." In any case,

1. Subscribers must be able to choose from competitive Internet Service Providers ("open access"). The FCC should also ensure that NO media companies discriminate against any Internet content or rival service and that every service, every website, every EMail message will be dispatched for its intended audience WITHOUT distortion, filtering, or retardation, exactly the same way for all ("Network Neutrality"). Crime that may pass through the internet is NONE of the companies business; THAT is the FBI's business.
2. Companies must be required to sell broadband access separate from video and telephone service, and at the same price ("naked broadband" or "unbundling"). And they MUST be stopped from blocking MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCESS networks, which are becoming the core of advance technology in all of the other Western Democracies. Dull wit about that now in the United States.
3. Any subscriber must be able to connect any device to the network (such as a Wi-Fi router) that

does not harm the network.

4. Take steps to protect public access programming ("PEG"). Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments. Likewise, telecommunications giants — like AT&T — are trying to eliminate the remaining vestiges of effective local oversight and control altogether. Public access programming is absolutely essential to functioning Democracy.

5. Independent programmers must be able to reach subscribers, not AS NOW being forced to buy channels we don't want or need because providers bundle services together.

6. Any company that owns both programming and video systems exclusive in a geographic region should be required to provide competitors with access to their regional sports and other programming needed to offer competing services, so consumers will still have real choices.

In conclusion, I ask the FCC to consider the interests of the PEOPLE, who pay the cable, telephone and broadband bills and watch the programming. PEOPLE, instead of only CEOs, and excessive profits, and dumbing down of NEWS to protect entrenched agents of "government". The FCC should NOT make it MORE DIFFICULT for US, PEOPLE, USERS to find competitors, get NEWS, and THINK independently.

Free-enterprise capitalism is SUPPOSED to be the spur for competition, improved services, and decreased cost.... CRONY capitalism, in which government and its regulatory agencies allow the biggest and richest corporations to destroy all of the others does NOT foster competition, but the opposite, oiled by a huge helping of GREED.

Will the FCC protect us against this glaring trend in America? or will it simply capitulate to the richest of the rich, and BURY America? The last dying, great hope of the WORLD's PEOPLE to be FREE?